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GESTIONS FOR SOLICITORS AND MASTERS. By HENRY R. GIBSON, A.M., LL.D., Chancellor of the Second Chancery Division of Tennessee. Second Edition; revised and enlarged by the author. Knoxville, Tenn.: Gaut-Ogden Co. 1907. pp. xx, 1203.

The scope of this book is expressed in its title. The authorities cited are mostly from the decisions of the courts of Tennessee and from standard treatises on equity. In the selection and treatment of topics emphasis is placed on those in which the average lawyer is most likely to be concerned. Little effort is made to deal with theory, but rather to give the lawyer of Tennessee a good working tool, suited to the business of a legal craftsman. As such the book is well made. The forms are numerous; the index ample; but no table of cases is given.

In discussing the history of the Court of Chancery, the relation of the Court of Chancery of Tennessee to that of North Carolina is shown, and an interesting reference is made to the influence of John Locke's Fundamental Constitution of North Carolina on the creation of that court. It is to be regretted that the limits of his book did not permit Chancellor Gibson to enlarge his account of the Colonial Courts and the growth of equity jurisdiction in Tennessee.

A DIGEST OF IMPORTANT CASES ON THE LAW OF CRIMES. By JOHN R. ROOD. Ann Arbor: George Wahr. 1906. pp. 623.

Professor Rood, of the University of Michigan, has arranged for the use of students in criminal law, a case book of distinctive and characteristic merit.

The author frankly calls it an experiment. It occupies a middle ground between the Harvard case book and the ordinary text-book of the Horn-book or Student Series. We believe, however, that the work, in its method and design, embodies many of the advantages of the most approved case book, and in the hands of a capable instructor, can be made of far superior value to the student than the average text-book.

The cases digested far exceed the number contained in the usual case book. They have been selected, condensed and classified with exceptional discrimination and skill. The arrangement of the entire matter of the book in appropriate chapters and sections, with helpful and suggestive head-notes, affords a most useful guide to the student, and enables him to properly systematize and arrange the information he acquires as he progresses with his subject.

The table of contents at the beginning has been most carefully and elaborately planned. It constitutes in itself a most valuable and suggestive outline or skeleton of this important branch of municipal law. The general arrangement and classification is that adopted by Mr. Bishop, and followed by most American writers upon this subject.

The author has made use of nearly one thousand cases. This is about ten times the number employed in most of the case books on this subject. They are compressed into 597 pages of text, with very few notes. This has necessitated a statement of each case so condensed and abridged as practically to eliminate the distinctive quality of a case book, at least such as

are compiled after the Harvard system. Many cases are reduced to a statement of but five or six lines. Comparatively few of the cases are extended beyond two or three pages. The average space occupied in the statement of each case will be found to be considerably less than one page of text. It is doubtful, therefore, if the book will be deemed suitable by instructors who are exclusively devoted to the Harvard or case method of teaching law. Indeed, it is not a case book but a digest, as its title very properly indicates.

It would seem to be evident that this book will be regarded with more favor by teachers who are not exclusively committed to the case system. It is in many respects, however, superior to the average text-book. The propositions contained in the text can be depended upon as accurate statements of what some court of last resort has decided to be the law upon a state of facts which have been actually submitted to judicial consideration. These propositions can be readily discovered by the student, without unnecessary labor or loss of time.

They have been harmoniously grouped and classified as authorities supporting a general principle formulated by the author in a black-letter head-note at the beginning of each chapter and section.

We venture to suggest that the value of the book for law-school students would be considerably enhanced if the text were reduced at least one-half in bulk. This could be accomplished by largely reducing the number of cases comprising the principal text, and relegating at least one-half of them to foot-notes.

In selecting the cases the author has been careful to use the case as finally decided and reported by the court of last resort. Upon the question as to whether a possible crime of attempt was committed when one decoyed an extortioner, the author cites *People v. Gardner*, 144 N. Y. 119, where the Court of Appeals overruled the Superior Court at general term, whose opinion to the effect that no crime was committed will be found where the case is reported in 73 Hun 66. Many text-books cite this case as decided at the general term, where the conviction was set aside and the accused discharged, to support the proposition that there is no guilt of attempt where one tries to do that which would not be a crime even if he succeeded (because of the absence of an essential element), though he really intended to do that which was a crime.

The table of cases is made much more convenient for quick reference by having the cases arranged alphabetically under the names of the defendants only.

The cases are wisely apportioned between England and the United States in the proportion of about one to three.

A valuable feature also is a citation showing such cases as are to be found in the case books of such well-known authors as Professor Beale of Harvard, Dr. Kenny of Cambridge, and Professor Lawson of the University of Missouri.

While the book is designed primarily for law students, it has many qualities which should commend it as a useful hand-book for the busy lawyer. The scheme embraces only the substantive law of crime, without including cases relating especially to procedure.

The work is most conscientiously and faithfully performed, and should be well received by legal scholars as well as lawyers actively engaged in the practice of their profession.

#### REVIEWS TO FOLLOW:

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